ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

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Produced by the Kentucky Department of Education

UNBRIDLED LEARNING
College/Career Readiness for All

EVERY CHILD
PROFICIENT & PREPARED FOR
SUCCESS
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Kentucky school students may now use eTranscripts

Students at all Kentucky public high schools may request their transcripts online and have them sent directly to any of the state's 44 public or private colleges and universities and other participating schools worldwide.

Since the eTranscript project kicked off last August, all 168 of the school districts with public high schools have undergone training and rolled out the system to students. Kentucky is the first state to use a common transcript and electronic process for college admissions statewide.

Through eTranscript, Kentucky students may request their transcripts 24 hours a day, seven days a week online at www.parchment.com. With the click of a mouse, students can securely send the transcript directly to any participating postsecondary school at no cost through July of the year they graduate from high school. In the past, high school counselors have had to physically handle transcript requests – sometimes at a cost to the student.

"There's no doubt Kentucky e-Transcript is a win for students and a win for high schools," Education Commissioner Terry Holliday said. "It helps streamline the college application process and helps relieve some of the burden on high school counselors and advisors."

Kentucky's eTranscript standard format also expedites the processing of thousands of transcripts each year at colleges and universities and speeds acceptance notification.

"The new electronic transcripts will make it easier for students to apply to college and provide assurance that important information is transmitted accurately and quickly," Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education President Bob King said.

The project is a joint effort of the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority. The three state agencies worked with two private firms, Parchment and Infinite Campus, on the project. Parchment is the leader in eTranscript exchange in the U.S., and Infinite Campus is the nation's largest American-owned provider of student information systems.

To learn how your child can better plan and prepare for higher education, go to www.gotocollege.ky.gov.

Summer learning plentiful

The summer programs listed here are just a sample of the opportunities available to students this summer. Your child's teacher, counselor or district gifted and talented coordinator may be able to provide you with additional options for your child.

Many Kentucky universities and community colleges offer summer programs that would be of interest to young people. Here's a look at opportunities compiled by the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education. The list continues on pages 3 and 4.

Academic Summer Camps (computer science)
Transylvania University; grades 6-12, various weeks in June
Contact: Charlotte Taraba, ctaraba@transy.edu, (859) 233-8228
www.transy.edu/visitors/academic_camps.htm

AquaBots Engineering Camp/Kentucky Girls STEM Collaborative
all across Kentucky, rising 7th-11th graders, contact for dates
Contact: Sue Scheff, suescheff@uky.edu (859) 257-2614
www.kygirlsstem.com/ProgramsEvents/

Aviation Camp (Aviation Museum of Kentucky)
Bowling Green; Hazard; Pikeville; Lexington; Louisville, ages 10-16 depending on camp; various weeks June-July
Contact: camps2014@aviationky.org, (859) 231-1219
www.aviationky.org/camp.asp

Camp ArtyFact (Kentucky Historical Society)
Frankfort; ages 6-13, various times in June-July, 2014
Contact: Greg Hardison, greg.hardison@ky.gov
www.history.ky.gov/camp/

Constellations, Cartoons, Creations and Codes (Challenge Learning Center of Kentucky)
Hazard; ages 5 - 17, various weeks June-July
Contact: Melissa Collins, melissaw.collins@kctcs.edu, (606) 487-3049
www.clcky.com

Teacher feedback positive on new evaluation system

The Kentucky Department of Education has received a positive response from Kentucky teachers concerning a new statewide evaluation system known as the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES).

Select schools in all 173 school districts are piloting PGES this school year.

For the past three years, the department, guided by a committee of stakeholders, has been working to develop a new statewide teacher evaluation system designed to transform the teaching profession and improve the outcomes for all students.

A system for principals and superintendents also is in development with the guidance of stakeholders.

See this news release for more information.

Kentucky FEA students excel at National Conference

Students from Kentucky won top honors at the recent Future Educators Association (FEA) National Conference held last month in Minneapolis.

See this news release for more information.

Kentucky Department of Education

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Fax:	(502) 564-3049
Contact:	Susan Riddell
Twitter:	@KyDeptofEd
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CyberCave Academies (Murray State University)
rising 10th-12th graders interested in
telecommunications technology and cyber security
Cyber Academy: June 8-14, June 22-27,
CyberCave Security Academy, July 6-11, 2014
Contact: Annie Vandiver,
avandiver@murraystate.edu (270) 809-3987;
www.murraystate.edu/tsm/cybercave

**Broadway Bound Summer Camps
(The Academy for Creative Excellence,
University of Kentucky)**
Lexington; variety of theater-related summer camps
for grades 1-8, various weeks June-July
Contact: Mary Joy Nelson,
ace.academy@uky.edu, (849) 494-3937;
www.academyforcreativeexcellence.com/camp-basics

Broadway Workshop at the Carson Center
Paducah; ages 9-18, June 9-13
Contact: Mary Katz, mkatz@thecarsoncenter.org,
(270) 443-9932, ext. 250;
www.thecarsoncenter.org/class-acts/summer-opportunities

**Camp Carnegie 2014
(legal eagles, making apps, games, websites)**
Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning
Lexington; rising 6th-8th graders, various weeks
in July depending on the camp
Contact: (859) 254-4175, ext. 21,
ccll1@carnegiecenterlex.org;
www.carnegiecenterlex.org/

Camp Invention
Taylorsville; Spencer County Elementary School,
rising grades 1-6, June 23-27
Contact: Gina Pollett,
gina.pollett@spencer.kyschools.us, (800) 968-4332;
www.campinvention.org

Camp Invention
Various locations all around Kentucky
Contact: Judi Colloredo, jcolloredo@invent.org
for locations and camp information
www.campinvention.org

**Camp Shakespeare
(Kentucky Shakespeare Company)**
Louisville; ages 4-18 depending on program, various
weeks June-July
Contact: Beth Dunn, beth@kyshakespeare.com,
(502) 574-9900
www.kyshakespeare.com

Computer Science Camps, (EKU)
Richmond; ranging from ages 7-18 depending on
camp, weekly during June; Contact: Kristen King,
kristen.king@eku.edu, (859) 622-2103;
www.computerscience.eku.edu/eku-computer-science-summer-camp-2014

**Conservation Camps, (Kentucky Department
of Fish and Wildlife Resources)**
Kentucky Lake, Lake Cumberland or Grayson Lake;
grades 4-6, various times throughout summer
Contact: (800) 858-1549
http://fw.ky.gov/Education/Pages/Summer-Camps.aspx

Cyber Experience (Murray State University)
Paducah; rising 7th-9th graders interested in
telecommunications technology and cyber
security, July 14-18; Contact: Annie Vandiver,
avandiver@murraystate.edu, (270) 809-3987;
www.murraystate.edu/tsm/cybercave

ExploreMore and Norse Think Tank, (NKU)
Highland Heights; grades K-5 (ExploreMore, June 16-
20, 23-27); grades 5-8 (Norse Think Tank June 16-20)
Contact: gifted@nku.edu

Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road
camps located all around Kentucky; day and
residential camps; various weeks, June-July
Contact: gswrc@gswrc.org, (859) 293-2621
www.gskentucky.org/camp

High School Summer Media Workshops
(Kentucky High School Media Institute and WKU
School of Journalism and Broadcasting)
Bowling Green; high school students, June 15 - 19
Contact: Charlotte Turtle, charlotte.turtle@wku.edu,
(270) 745-4144
www.wku.edu/khsmp/

Kentucky Mud Works Kids' Clay Camps
Lexington; ages 6-15 depending on class, various weeks June-July; Contact: info@kentuckymudworks.com, (859) 389-6817; www.kentuckymudworks.com/classes/kidsclayclasses.html

Kentucky Science Center Summer 2014 Camps
Louisville; grades pre K-8, full and half day available, various weeks June-Aug.
Contact: (502) 561-6100
www.kysciencecenter.org/kids/camps/

Kids in College Can Soar
Hopkinsville and Cadiz; grades 1-6, various weeks in June-July; Career Craze (Farming or Robotics) grades 7-9, June 23-26
Contact: Carrie McGinnis, carrie.mcginnis@kctcs.edu, (270) 707-3750
www.hopkinsville.kctcs.edu/Community_Ed/Youth_Programs

Kentucky Humane Society Summer Camps
Louisville; ages 6-12 (Lifelong Friends, Kids and Canines); ages 12-16 (Animal Advocates); various weeks June-August,
Contact: Valerie Merrifield, education@kyhumane.org, (502) 515-3149; www.kyhumane.org/forkids/khs-camps/

Kentucky Museum Summer Day Camps, (WKU)
Bowling Green; ages 6-15 depending on camp (photography, clay, media, painting) various weeks in June; Contact: Lynne Ferguson, lynne.ferguson@wku.edu, (270) 745-2594; www.wku.edu/kentuckymuseum/education/summer_camp_gallery.php

Kentucky School for the Deaf Summer School
Danville; open to deaf/hard-of-hearing Kentucky students grades K- 8; June 8-20,
Contact: Barb Snapp, barb.snapp@ksd.kyschools.us, (859) 936-6816; www.ksd.k12.ky.us/

Living Arts and Science Center Summer Camps
Lexington, ages P-12, various weeks June-August, Contact: www.lasclex.org

Newton's Attic Hands-on STEM, Robotics, Computer Programming, Legos and more
Lexington; ages 6-18 depending on camp, various weeks May 28-August 22,
Contact: Dawn Cloyd, newtonsattic@gmail.com, (859) 492-8511; www.newtonsattic.com

Owensboro Museum of Fine Arts Camps
Owensboro; ages 6-15 depending on camp, June 9-13, July 14-18,
Contact: Mary Bryan Hood, (270)685-3181, info@omfa.us; www.omfa.us/

Pre-College Academic Experience in Mathematics and Science, (Georgetown College)
Georgetown; rising 10th-12th graders, June 15-27, Contact: Rick Kopp, rick_kopp@georgetowncollege.edu, (502) 863-8088; www.georgetowncollege.edu/paems/

Psychology Camp (Inner Space Camp), (EKU)
Richmond; high school students, July 22-July 27, Contact: Cheryl Ramey, cheryl.ramey@eku.edu, (859) 622-1105; www.psychology.eku.edu/live-think-existpsychology

The Summer Camp for Academically Talented Middle School Students
Bowling Green (Western Kentucky University); rising 7th-9th graders; June 8-June 20,
Contact: The Center for Gifted Studies, gifted@wku.edu, (270) 745-6323; www.wku.edu/gifted/scats/index.php

Science and Math Day Camp (UPike)
Pikeville; rising 5th-6th graders, July 7-11 and rising 7th-8th graders, July 14-18; Contact: Robert W. Arts, robertarts@upike.edu, (606) 218-5476; http://myspace.upike.edu/rarts/public_html/camp.htm

SKyPAC Youth Theater Summer Camp
Bowling Green; grades 1-12 depending on camp, various weeks June and July
Contact: Tiffany Deaton, tdeaton@theskypac.com, (270) 904-7006;
www.theskypac.com

Kentucky honored for its computer science efforts in schools

Efforts to promote computer science education are catching on in Kentucky.

Code.org, a national non-profit organization that promotes computer science education and computer programming (or coding), has recognized Kentucky for its "progressive state policy to make computer science count" as a core graduation requirement.

In addition to AP Computer Science, several schools offer coding classes – either as part of regular course offerings or as an extracurricular activity. Students participated in coding challenges at this year's Kentucky Student Technology Leadership Program annual conference. And last December, a number of Kentucky schools participated in an Hour of Code, an effort to introduce students to coding and computer programming.

Coding and computer science learning can begin with our youngest students, and it presents a great opportunity for parents and children to learn something together.

For the primary students, Kodable, an iPad app created by a startup company from Louisville, is popular. Middle schoolers can learn with Scratch, a visual programming tool created at MIT.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts one in every two science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs in the country will be in computing occupations, with more than 150,000 job openings annually making it one of the fastest growing occupations in the U.S.

The industries requiring computing professionals are diverse. Two-thirds of computing jobs are in sectors other than information technology, including manufacturing, defense, health care, finance and government.

See this news release for more information on Kentucky efforts, and check out more parent-related information on coding here.

Two Eastern Kentucky career and tech schools receive Lowe's Grants

Two eastern Kentucky career and technical education (CTE) centers recently were awarded grants by the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation.

Kentucky Tech-Floyd County Area Technology Center received a $25,000 grant, and the Kentucky Tech-Millard Area Technology Center (Pike County) received $17,310.

The "SkillsUSA Schools in Need" grants will be used for tools and supplies that students will use to make benches and tables for state parks in the region.

The focus for SkillsUSA Lowe's grants is to provide schools assistance for a variety of needs, such as the necessary equipment to assist in specific educational endeavors including community service projects.

"We appreciate the support from Lowe's, the SkillsUSA program, these schools and most importantly, the students who are doing the work," Parks Commissioner Elaine Walker said. "This is a great example of young people providing a community service that will serve local residents as well as our guests."

"We're very proud of these two successful grant recipients and the students they serve," Kentucky Department of Education associate commissioner Dale Winkler said. "Our partnership with Lowe's, through SkillsUSA and the Kentucky State Parks, will serve the future of these young people and sets an example of the many good things that can happen through collaborative efforts."

Winkler also noted the work of the schools' principals, Lenville Martin at Floyd County ATC and Jim Bob Hamilton at Millard ATC, along with Floyd County ATC's SkillsUSA advisor and SkillsUSA Beginning Advisor of the Year, Justin Trout.

"These people are the ones on the front lines who are responsible for making sure these projects get done," Winkler said. "We just couldn't do these types of ventures if not for them."

The benches will be placed along the Dawkins Line Rail Trail, which covers 18 miles in Johnson and Magoffin counties, but will eventually cover 36 miles when completed. The trail opened in 2013 and serves hikers, cyclists and horseback riders. Tables and benches will also be placed at Kentucky State Parks in this region.

Our chapter in the education reform story

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak to education writers from across the United States at their national seminar in Nashville. The Education Writers Association includes journalists, researchers, teachers, policymakers and others with an interest in improving the public discourse surrounding education. The organization is dedicated to improving the quality and quantity of education coverage to create a better-informed society. Several of the journalists who regularly cover education in Kentucky were in attendance.

The organization asked me to share Kentucky's education reform story. By all accounts it is a success, though we still have a long way to go to achieve our goal of college/career-readiness for all. The following are some of the thoughts I shared with them as the reasons for our accomplishments.

When they write the Kentucky chapter in the book describing education reform, they will certainly mention the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990. I hope they also will highlight the era of Race to the Top, Federal Stimulus Funds and No Child Left Behind Waivers. Kentucky's leadership in education reform is well documented and is part of the culture for education in Kentucky.

The Kentucky chapter documenting the reform period from 2008-16 should begin with the foundation that was developed through the passage of major legislation in 2009. Senate Bill 1 (SB1) passed with no dissenting votes. SB 1 required new college-ready standards, assessments, accountability systems and support for educators in implementing. Perhaps the most unique part of the legislation was the requirement for collaboration between higher education and K-12 education on setting college-ready standards.

When the Kentucky chapter is written, a few key initiatives should be highlighted.

1. It really helps to be the first. Kentucky was first to adopt and implement Common Core State Standards, first to assess the standards and first to implement an accountability system based on the standards. By being first we were able to chart our own course. There was no major opposition since we had 100 percent support from legislators and the governor. Also, there were no other states for people to compare us to.

2. We worked to develop a broad base of support. We developed a strong communications plan with key partners. Our educators stayed involved and informed through every phase. Parents received communication on why we needed more rigorous

Doc H's Blog

To sign up to receive Education Commissioner Terry Holliday's weekly blog, click here, and enter your e-mail address in the prompt at the bottom of the page.

standards and assessments and how this would impact their children. Business leaders received packets of materials from the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce to help them lead the reform efforts in their communities.

3. From the very beginning we made a decision to involve teachers in every step of implementation. We pulled more than 1,300 teachers, principals, and district leaders together every month for two years to help us plan for implementation and monitor and adjust implementation plans. Every school and every school district developed a comprehensive plan for implementation and support for the new standards.

4. We made a decision not to rush the teacher, principal and superintendent evaluation procedures. We heavily involved educators to develop evaluation models linked to the new standards and assessments. As a result, we have widespread support this year as every district piloted the new evaluation systems and next year, all teachers, principals and superintendents will utilize the state evaluation procedures.

5. Finally, our state is committed to a continuous improvement approach. We know we must continue to listen and learn from students, parents, teachers and community leaders. Just one example of our continuous improvement approach is our Kentucky Core Academic Standards Challenge which will launch in August. We are asking every Kentuckian to read the standards and provide comments and suggestions on how to improve the standards so we reach our goal of every student reaching college- and career-readiness.

Finally, I hope the Kentucky chapter will close with the record of success we have enjoyed. Our high school graduation rate is among the top in the nation and our college- and career-readiness rate has improved from 34 percent to 54 percent since we adopted common core standards.